

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, PE

SUBJECT: GAO SURVEYS IN LATIN AMERICA

REF: LIMA 1850

1. DE MARCO LETTER OF FEBRUARY 6 CONCERNING COUNTRY COGNIZANCE SURVEY WAS ,PREMATURE IN THAT DEPARTMENT WAS NOT INFORMED BY GAO WAS DC OF THIS AUDIT WORK. MATTER TAKEN UP WITH SENIOR GAO OFFICIALS HERE, AND HAVE OBTAINED THEIR ASSURANCE THAT HENCEFORT GAO OVERSEAS BRANCES WILL DEFER CORRESPONDING WITH EMBASSIES RE AUDITS UNTIL GAO WASH DC NOTIFIES DEPARTMENT IN WRITING, AND UNTIL DEPARTMENT ISSUES INSTRUCTION CABLE TO POST. DEPARTMENT 'ILL INFO APPROPRIATE GAO OVERSEAS BRANCH OFFICE ON ALL SUCH CABLES.

2. ON MATTER OF GAO COUNTRY SURVEYS DESCRIBED IN DE MARCO LETTER); AS WELL AS OT.ER CATEGORIES GAO AUDIT
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WORKIT IS DEPARTMENT POLICY TO COOPERATE WITH THE

GAO TO FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE SO AS TO PE OF MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE TO GAO FIELD REPS. SUCH COUNTRY SURVEYS HAVE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL, AND OVER PAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY GAO IN SOME FORTY COUNTRIES WORLD-WIDE, INCLUSIVE LA AREA, E.G. ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE,

COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI, PANAMA, VENEZUELA. THESE ARE SHORT, BROAD-BASED SURVEYS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE GAO WITH CURRENT AND FIRSTHAND OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF USG POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES AND TO HELP IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AND ISSUES. GAO USES THIS INFORMATION TO PLAN AND PROGRAM FUTURE AUDIT WORK AND TO ASSIST CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES. THEY DO NOT RESULT IN FORMAL REPORTING TO THE CONGRESS; HOWEVER, INTERNAL REPORTS ARE PREPARED BY GAO AUDITORS-ON-SITE, AND DISCUSSED IN AN EXIT CONFERENCE WITH AMBASSADOR AND AGENCY HEADS.

3. CONCERNING GAO REVIEW OF U.S. DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN LA, DEPARTMENT ADVICE AND GUIDANCE CONTINUES IN STATE MESSAGES O31340 AND O35012. ON DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH GAO, PLEASE REFER TO 4 FAM 930-934.

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